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Page 2

Art Unit: 2800

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Art Unit: 2800

32. (Currently Amended) A solid-state light source for providing light to an endoscope, the solid-state light source comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor light sources for emitting light, each semiconductor light source having an encasement that includes an aperture; and

an optical system having an optical element having a proximal end, the optical system having an input for receiving emitted light from the semiconductor light sources, the optical system having an output for receiving transmitting light from the optical element, the output configured to be received by the endoscope, the optical system and the semiconductor light sources in aggregate providing an illumination path;

wherein each aperture receives an associated portion of the proximal end of the optical element and each associated portion is positioned to receive the light from the corresponding light emitting surface.

Art Unit: 2800

33. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein the optical element includes an optical fiber.

34. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source emits light to an optical fiber.

35. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 34 wherein the optical fiber extends from each semiconductor light source to an interface of a light guide, the light guide extending to the output.

36. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source includes a light emitting diode (LED).

37. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source is configured to emit a blue light.

38. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source is configured to emit an ultraviolet light.

39. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32, further comprising a phosphor layer, the phosphor layer is located along the illumination path.

40. (Currently Amended) The solid-state light source of claim 39 wherein each semiconductor light source is in contact with ~~[[a]]~~ the phosphor layer.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The A solid-state light source of claim 39~~ for providing light to an endoscope, the solid-state light source comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor light sources for emitting light, each semiconductor light source having an encasement that includes an aperture;

an optical system having an optical element having a proximal end, the optical system having an input for receiving emitted light from the semiconductor light sources, the optical system having an output for receiving light from the optical element, the output configured to be received by the endoscope, the optical system and the semiconductor light sources in aggregate providing an illumination path;

wherein each aperture receives an associated portion of the proximal end of the optical element and each associated portion is positioned to receive the light from the corresponding light emitting surface; and

a phosphor layer located along the illumination path wherein [(a)] the phosphor layer is located at a distal end of the endoscope.

42. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32, further comprising a light concentrator positioned at the semiconductor light source, the light concentrator reflects light from at least one surface of the semiconductor light source.

43. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source includes a first light emitting diode (LED) configured to emit blue light, a second LED configured to emit red light and a third LED configured to emit green light, an overlapping light from each LED producing white light.

44. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 43, further comprising a mixer positioned to receive light from the first LED, the second LED and the third LED and positioned to transmit the overlapping light to the fiber optic line.

45. (Previously Presented) The solid state light source of claim 44 wherein each semiconductor light source includes a fourth LED configured to emit yellow light, the mixer receives light from the fourth LED.

46. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source includes a laser diode.

47. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein each semiconductor light source includes a vertical cavity surface emission laser.

48. (Previously Presented) A solid-state light source for providing light to an endoscope. the solid-state light source comprising:

a semiconductor light source for emitting light; and

an optical system having an optical element, the optical system having an input for receiving emitted light from the semiconductor light source, the optical system having an output for receiving light from the optical element, the output configured to be received by the endoscope, the optical system and the semiconductor light source in aggregate providing an illumination path;

wherein the semiconductor light source has a first surface and a second surface and is configured to emit light in opposite directions from the first surface and the second surface.

49. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 48 wherein the first surface emits light to a first fiber optic line and the second surface emits light to a second fiber optic line.

50. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 49 wherein the semiconductor light source has a third surface and a fourth surface substantially perpendicular to the first surface, the semiconductor light source is configured to emit light in opposite directions from the third surface and the fourth surface, the third surface of the semiconductor light source configured to

Art Unit: 2800

emit light to a third fiber optical line and the fourth surface of the semiconductor light source configured to emit light to a fourth fiber optical line.

51. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein the optical element is a fiber optic element; and further comprising:  
a substantially transparent substance located within each encasement;  
wherein the fiber optic element is inserted through the aperture and the substantially transparent substance.

52. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 51 further comprising an ohmic contact positioned on a top surface of the semiconductor light source;  
wherein the fiber optic element has a spliced-end to receive the ohmic contact.

53. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein the optical system includes an array of lenses and a corresponding array of fiber optic lines.

54. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 53 wherein the plurality of semiconductor light sources are in an array and each semiconductor light source is optically aligned with a corresponding lens and each corresponding lens is optically aligned with a corresponding fiber optic line.

55. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 54 wherein each semiconductor light source is positioned in a first optical conjugate plane from the corresponding lens and each corresponding fiber optic line is positioned in a second optical conjugate plane from the corresponding lens.

56. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 32 wherein the optical element includes:

an array of lenses configured to collimate light from a corresponding array of semiconductor light sources; and  
a focusing lens configured to focus a collimated light from the array of lenses.

57. (Original) The solid-state light source of claim 56 wherein the focusing lens focuses the collimated light onto a light guide.

58. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 52, wherein the fiber optic element is positioned relative to the ohmic contact to ensure maximum light coupling efficiency.

59. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 32, wherein the optical element comprises fibers having a rectangular-shaped cross-section conforming to a size and shape of the semiconductor source.

60. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:  
an endoscope having a distal end, the endoscope comprising a phosphor layer positioned at the distal end along an illumination path.  
a semiconductor light source for emitting light; and  
an optical system having an optical element, the optical system having an input for receiving emitted light from the semiconductor light source, the optical system having an output for receiving light from the optical element, the output configured to be received by the endoscope, the optical system and the semiconductor light source in aggregate providing the illumination path.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the semiconductor light source includes a light emitting diode (LED).

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the optical element includes an optical fiber.

63. (Previously Presented) A solid-state light source for providing light to an endoscope, the solid-state light source comprising:

a semiconductor light source for emitting light;

an optical system having an optical element, the optical system having an input for receiving emitted light from the semiconductor light source, the optical system having an output for receiving light from the optical element, the output configured to be received by the endoscope, the optical system and the semiconductor light source in aggregate providing an illumination path; and

a phosphor layer positioned at the output of the optical system and along the illumination path.

64. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 63, wherein the semiconductor light source includes a light emitting diode (LED).

65. (Previously Presented) The solid-state light source of claim 63, wherein the optical element includes an optical fiber.